



Governor's E-Newsletter

December 18-23, 2004



Aloha and Welcome from the Governor's Office in Hawai'i!

It is with pleasure that we send you this e-newsletter.



From our `ohana to yours...



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Governor Lingle, Lt. Governor and Mrs. Aiona are pictured at Washington Place with children from Kawaiaha'o School and Angels at Play Preschool.

Holiday Message to Our Residents and Visitors

As Governor of the State of Hawai`i, I would like to wish all our residents and visitors a very happy holiday season. During this special time of the year, let us pause to reflect on how much we have to be thankful for in the Aloha State. The natural beauty of Hawai`i is unparalleled, our quality of life is the best we have experienced in years and our people are blessed with a gracious and loving spirit that adds greatly to the soul of our island home. It is my hope that you are able to join with family and friends in celebrating the holidays. Of course, many people will be far away from their families. This includes Hawai`i's men and women in uniform who are fighting for freedom and democracy in Iraq and Afghanistan. Please join me in keeping our troops and their families in your thoughts and prayers, and thanking them for their many sacrifices. Let us also remember the less fortunate among us and lend a helping hand - not just today, but throughout the New Year. Aloha e m•lama pono!



Governor Lingle and state Budget and Finance Director Georgina Kawamura discussed the detailed 2005-2007 budget during a news conference.

Governor Unveils Proposed Balanced Budget Plan

Governor Lingle has submitted her Administration's six-year financial plan, including detailed proposals for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, to the state legislature. Among the priority areas are early childhood education, the University of Hawai`i system, environmental protection, state parks, affordable housing, homelessness, transportation, crime, substance abuse and economic development and diversification. The Governor described the budget as striking a balance in terms of being fiscally responsible, addressing key issues and investing in the future. To read the complete version of Governor Lingle's [2005-2007 Budget in Brief, please click here](#).



Governor Lingle greeted soldiers from the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry on the tarmac upon their arrival. The soldiers returned home for the holidays on a special Aloha Airlines charter flight.



State Adjutant General Robert Lee (left) and Governor Lingle commended Beau Tatsumura for organizing the special charter flight with Aloha Airlines executives for the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry. Tatsumura, an Army Reserve soldier, is director of maintenance at Aloha Airlines in his civilian life.

29th Brigade Troops Welcomed Home for Holidays

Hawai`i National Guard troops with the 29th Brigade Combat Team returned home for the

holidays this week on an Aloha Airlines charter flight. Governor Lingle was on the tarmac to welcome the soldiers, who have been taking part in advanced training at Fort Bliss, Texas. The troops will be with their families and friends for the holidays before completing additional training on the mainland and then deploying to Iraq. Read more in the [Honolulu Advertiser](#) and [Honolulu Star-Bulletin](#). Meanwhile, State Adjutant General Robert Lee recently visited Hawai`i-based troops in Iraq. Read more in the [Honolulu Star-Bulletin](#).



State Adjutant General Robert Lee (front row, third from right), visited with Hawai`i troops from Charlie Company, 193rd Aviation Regiment in Balad, Iraq. Photo courtesy of the Hawai`i National Guard.



Soldiers of Charlie Company, 193rd Aviation Regiment gather on the top of an aircraft shelter, formerly an Iraqi airbase hanger. Photo courtesy of the Hawai`i National Guard.



During training at Fort Bliss, soldiers from the 29th Brigade Combat Team practice "reflexive firing" at a range. Photo courtesy of Kyle Yone.



Soldiers from the 29th Brigade Combat Team training at Fort Bliss doze on a bus ride between practice ranges. Photo courtesy of Kyle Yone.



Sgt. Major Milton Yee, HQ, of the 29th Brigade Combat Team sent in this photo and wrote: "Aloha Governor Lingle...(we are) completing our final phase training here at Ft. Bliss, Texas. Soldiers of all ranks go through extensive convoy training to include this live fire exercise to prepare us for our deployment to Iraq."

Hawai`i is forever grateful for the dedication and sacrifice of its men and women serving in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard, as well as our citizen soldiers in the Reserve and National Guard. Please visit the photo album, "[Dedicated to Our Hawai`i Troops](#)." To submit digital photos of your loved ones who are serving our country overseas, please e-mail governor.lingle@hawaii.gov.



Governor Lingle joined Wallace Mitsui, director of the Hawai'i National Guard Youth Challenge Academy, in congratulating cadets prior to the graduation ceremony.



Governor Lingle presented each graduate of the Youth Challenge Academy with a certificate during a graduation ceremony for Class 21.

Governor Encourages Youth Challenge Academy Grads

Speaking at the graduation ceremony for the Hawai'i National Guard Youth Challenge Academy, Governor Lingle congratulated cadets of the 21st class for turning their lives around. The academy is a nationally recognized voluntary program that helps at-risk youth with academic preparation, leadership development, mentoring and physical fitness, along

with post-graduate placement in a job, college or a military career. Governor Lingle presented student Roblynn Batad with the Governor's Distinguished Graduate award and commended all the cadets on developing self-discipline and self-confidence, saying it would be the foundation for their future success. Read more in the [Honolulu Advertiser](#).



Governor Lingle was welcomed to a luncheon event by Barbara Halianak, executive director of the Moloka`i Chamber of Commerce.

Governor Meets with Moloka`i Business Community

During a luncheon at the Lanikeha Community Center, Governor Lingle told members of the Moloka`i Chamber of Commerce that her Administration is committed to fostering economic growth on the Friendly Isle. The Governor said numerous ongoing and planned capital improvement projects will help Moloka`i's economy, including work on bridges, roads and upgrades to Kaunakakai Harbor and the airport. Governor Lingle also toured Lanikeha's commercial kitchen. Managed by the Moloka`i Community Service Council, the fully equipped kitchen is available to the community for special events.



Governor Lingle spoke with students from Aka`ula School about their research on various environmental issues. Photo courtesy of Vicki Newberry.



Governor Lingle spoke with students and staff from Ho`omana Hou School: (front row, from left) Lance Uahinui, teacher Ms. Poepoe, James Lankford, Kapena Johnston, Rachel Abshire, Shantell Pu, Fumiko English, (back row, from left) Kodah Kalawe, Kalapana Makekau, Jonathan Sanchez, Tiani Kalima Moses, Sharlah Gloor and Heather Cariaga. Photo courtesy of the Molokai Dispatch.

Moloka`i Schools Toured by Governor Lingle

Emphasizing her commitment to education, Governor Lingle toured two private schools,

Aka`ula and Ho`omana Hou, during a visit to Moloka`i. After meeting with administrators, teachers and students, Governor Lingle praised the campuses as outstanding alternatives for Native Hawaiian children, who often thrive in non-traditional educational settings. Aka`ula has 45 students enrolled in grades 5-8 and emphasizes environmental science. Ho`omanu Hou at the Moloka`i Youth Center has 16 students in grades 9-10 and focuses on Hawaiian culture through hands-on activities.



During a swearing-in ceremony for Moloka`i members of state boards and commissions, Governor Lingle congratulated Wayde Lee on his appointment to the Juvenile Justice State Advisory Council and thanked him for his public service.

Moloka`i Boards and Commissions Members Sworn In

Six Moloka`i residents were sworn in as new or returning members of state boards and commissions at a ceremony conducted by Governor Lingle and Notary Public Allennie Nae`ole. The Governor spoke about the rewards and responsibilities of public service and how her Administration relies on volunteer boards and commissions to help form and revise legislation. Residents interested in serving in this capacity can obtain more information at the Governor's Web site: www.hawaii.gov/gov.



Governor Lingle is shown with (from left) Peter Englert, chancellor of the University of Hawai`i at Manoa; Donna Vuchinich, president of the UH Foundation; and Carol Gouveia, program director for `Ahahui Koa Anuenue.

Governor Welcomes Basketball Teams to Rainbow Classic

At the tip-off banquet for the University of Hawai`i's Rainbow Classic, Governor Lingle welcomed the visiting basketball teams and wished them well in the 41st annual tournament. She also congratulated UH head coach Riley Wallace for winning the Rainbow Classic championship for the past three years. Universities competing against UH this year are: Alabama-Birmingham, Clemson, Georgetown, Indiana State, Long Beach State, Oral Roberts and Southern California.

Department of the Week - Budget and Finance



Georgina Kawamura, director of the state Department of Budget and Finance.

Six-Year Financial Plan Submitted to State Legislature

State Budget and Finance Director Georgina Kawamura joined Governor Lingle this week in announcing the Administration's six-year financial plan and biennium budget for the 2006 and 2007 fiscal years. The Governor thanked Kawamura, Deputy Director Stan Shiraki, Budget Division Administrator Neal Miyahira and the Budget and Finance staff for their hard work, which included developing a "Budget in Brief" document to help the public understand how taxpayer dollars will be spent. The budget calls for "very modest growth," Governor Lingle said. "If you take out the fixed costs, then the increase in the budget is 2.2 percent in the first year and 2 percent in the second." Escalating expenditures the state has little discretion over include collective bargaining pay increases for government employees, benefits for retired and active public workers, social assistance entitlements such as Medicaid, and various court-mandated expenses.

In the News



2004 good to state economy

Hawai`i's economy is poised to end 2004 on a high note with just-released economic indicators showing solid job and income growth, low unemployment and a declining bankruptcy rate...Read more in the [Honolulu Advertiser](#).

State budget up, but so are costs

Read more in the [Honolulu Advertiser](#).

Lingle plan increases spending 11 percent

Read more in the [Maui News](#).

There's money for county, too

Read more in the [Maui News](#).

Retailers 'really upbeat'

Read more in the [Honolulu Advertiser](#).

Isle jobless rate stays low at 3.3%

Read more in the [Honolulu Star-Bulletin](#).

Foreign Fruit Fly Suppression Program Grows in Hawai`i

Read more on the [USDA Web site](#).

Quote of the Week

"Believe me, for a successful life, discipline has to be a foundation."

-Governor Lingle addressing cadets of the Hawai`i National Guard Youth Challenge Academy during a graduation ceremony marking the 21st class of the program.

Thought of the Week

"Just as Hawai`i families cannot spend more than they have, likewise, the state must live within its means and not saddle future generations with large amounts of additional debt. Our proposed budget was carefully crafted to reflect the public's highest priorities both in the short-term and long-term, while ensuring that taxpayer dollars are used wisely and where they will provide the most benefit."

-Governor Lingle announcing her Administration's 2005-2007 budget plan.

Key Upcoming Events

December 24 Christmas Eve.

December 24 Sheraton Hawai`i Bowl 2004, Aloha Stadium, 2:00 p.m. ESPN will televise the game.

December 25 Christmas Day. Mele Kalikimaka!

December 27 Governor Lingle will congratulate winners of the "Nene Goose that Laid the Golden Egg" contest, which is designed to increase awareness about protecting Hawai`i's state bird, the endangered Nene, Ceremonial Room, Executive Chambers, 3:00-3:15 p.m.

Listen to the Governor's Weekly Radio Show Live on www.hawaii.gov/gov at 7:05 a.m. (HST) each Wednesday and call in at (808) 521-8383 from O`ahu or (888) 565-8383 from the Neighbor Islands with questions and comments. Note: Rod Haraga, director of the state Department of Transportation, will be on the December 29th show with guest host Paul Wilson.

The weekly radio show can be heard live from 7:05-8:00 a.m. Wednesdays on the following radio stations:

O`ahu (KHHH AM 830)

Maui (KAOI 1110 AM)

Hilo (KPUA 670 AM)

Kaua`i (KONG 570 AM)

To hear the archived radio shows click [here](#).
